

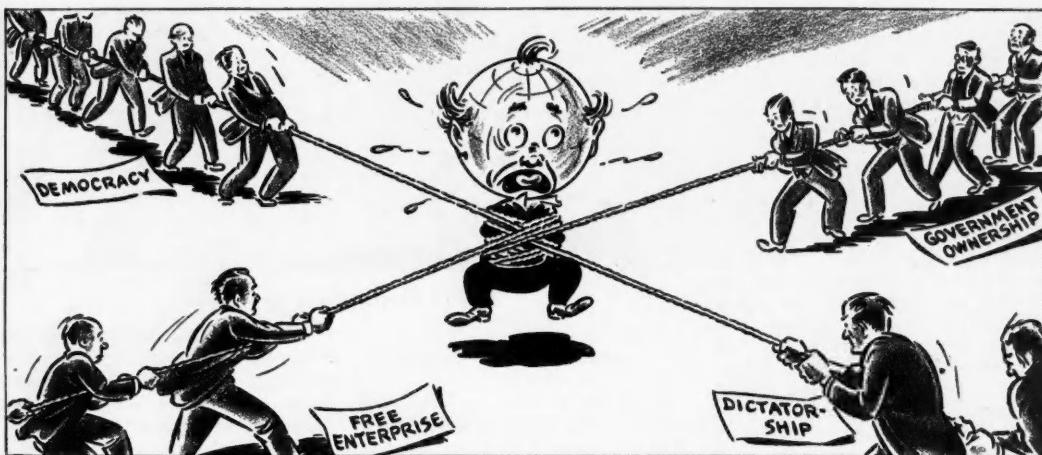
The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FORCES throughout the world are engaged in a tug of war

Democracy vs. Communism

All over the World a Profound Clash of Ideas Is Taking Place as People and Their Leaders Decide What Forms of Government and Industry They Want

We are living at a time when momentous events are occurring, when everything seems to be in a state of change. In the past 10 years, strong nations have fallen, and others are faltering. Yet two, the United States and Russia, have come into possession of tremendous power.

Along with these developments has come a profound clash of ideas, and a world-wide struggle for supremacy. The United States, of course, is leading the forces of democracy, and Russia is promoting the cause of communism.

The Soviet leaders are doing everything in their power to spread their system of government and industry, and to combat any ideas sponsored by our country. In the halls of the United Nations, in Latin America, Europe, and Asia, the Communists are working tirelessly to carry out the ideas and plans agreed upon by the top officials in Moscow.

The United States, at the same time, is active in furthering the cause of democracy abroad. During the past five years much of our effort has been devoted to bolstering Western Europe in the face of the communist threat. In the United Nations we have staunchly supported the democratic way of life, and have been supported by many more countries than have backed the Soviet Union.

This world-wide clash of ideas is taking place on both political and economic levels. The conflict not only touches upon forms of government but also takes in systems of industry.

All over the world people and governments are wrestling with the question of how industry shall be carried on. Shall it be in the hands of individuals and private companies, or shall it be operated or strictly controlled by the nation? In other words, shall a large measure of free enterprise or shall extensive socialization prevail?

Some of the nations have already

given their answers to these questions. The United States believes in free enterprise with a few exceptions. Russia stands on the other side and supports government ownership and control. Most of the other nations have lined up, or are lining up, somewhere between the opposite positions represented by America and the Soviet Union.

Under the American plan of free enterprise, or capitalism, nearly all the farms, factories, railways, telegraph and telephone lines, radio stations, newspapers, retail stores, repair shops, banks, and other businesses, are owned by private persons or corporations. The federal government operates the post offices and produces some electric power, while local governments provide

education, build roads, maintain order, and engage in a few other enterprises. But most of the economic life of American communities is in private hands.

The businesses owned by private persons and companies are not, of course, entirely free from public regulation. In times of war, the government wields a far-reaching control over industry. Even in peacetime, it maintains some supervision over the business life of the nation.

How much public regulation of industry there should be at any particular time is always a source of debate and controversy. But while many Americans favor public controls of one kind or another, the overwhelming majority of people in this country be-

(Concluded on page 2)

Who Decides What You Like?

By Walter E. Myer

ONE day the manager of a well-known hotel in New York was called upon to deal with the complaint of a very irate lady.

"I can't bear it another minute," she told him indignantly. "You must tell the man across the hall to stop making that horrible noise on the piano." And, seeing the look of surprise on the manager's face, she added, "If you don't make him stop, I will leave immediately."

"I'm very sorry it's disturbing you," the manager said patiently. "That's Paderewski."

It was the lady's turn to look surprised. "What?" she stammered, much embarrassed. "The great pianist Paderewski?" She was silent for a moment. "Well, of course, that's different. Please don't say a word to him."

Two days later the manager overheard her, talking to another visitor in the lobby. "It's so wonderful," she was saying, "I can open my door every

morning and hear Paderewski practice."

Now this lady probably didn't know very much about music but she did know something about Paderewski. His was a famous name and she could safely enjoy his music without fear of being thought ignorant or lacking in good taste.

We all have our own natural taste for things, from food to the finest art forms. To acquire good taste, we have to study our subjects. We have to learn about craftsmanship and analyze the finest works in the light of this knowledge. With such a background we shall have the critical ability to pass sound judgment.

Most of us, however, are so burdened with the opinions of others that we look at a picture, read a poem or listen to a piece of music, scarcely able to distinguish our own thoughts from those we have read or heard.

So, when we learn that the painting is by Michelangelo, the quotation from

Shakespeare, the symphony one of Beethoven's, we exclaim with relief, "That's different!" and proceed to admire and praise and enjoy.

To express our convictions needs as much courage in art as in philosophy, politics and all the other vital issues of life. To form honest opinions uninfluenced by the fashion of the moment or the ideas of our friends, requires strength of mind. We have to take hold of ourselves firmly and say, "Is this what I really think?" when we stand in front of an unsigned painting, or "Am I really enjoying this?" while we listen to a piece of unfamiliar music.

If we can honestly admit we like some unknown work of art, then, if we later discover it is the creation of a famous artist, we shall not have to say, "Well, of course, that's different."



Walter E. Myer

Opposing Ways of Life

(Concluded from page 1)

lieve in a maximum of free enterprise. They are opposed to government ownership except in rare instances. They do not want any more public controls than appear to be absolutely necessary.

Directly opposite from the American economic system is the Russian. The farms, factories, railways, mines, stores and nearly all other industries or businesses in that country are owned and managed by the government. The people are employees of the state.

Hours, wages, and other labor conditions are decided by public officials. Workers cannot go from one job to another if they are dissatisfied with their wages or with their employment situation in general. Nor can they engage in strikes.

The Soviet government makes plans for the development of industries, new or old. It builds factories and even entire cities. It decides what shall be produced in all industries.

It is a fact, of course, that the Russian people, either under govern-

most of the Balkan countries and has extended her influence into Central Europe in the past five years.

The movement toward government ownership and control has also been evident in a number of countries that are not in the Soviet orbit. For example, Sweden, which had considerable public ownership even before the war, has more now. In England a number of the big basic industries, such as coal mining, electric-power plants, and railroads, have been taken over by the government. In France and Italy the trend is toward a large measure of government ownership.

Most Americans, believing as they do that our system of industry is better than the collectivist or socialist system, look with concern upon the growth of government ownership. They do not like the economic trend in the world today. They hope that nations will gradually return to systems of free enterprise and private industry.

Now let us turn our attention to the general political scene in the world today. Even though the economic systems of such countries as Britain and Sweden are partly like Russia's, their political systems do not resemble the Soviet one at all. Public decisions in these lands are made by democratic rather than dictatorial methods. The people have the same freedom and democratic privileges we enjoy.

The British government, for example, did not take over industries until a majority of the Parliament elected by the people decided upon such a course. Those who believed in governmental control of industry did not think of staging a revolution, in which private property should be taken from the owners by force. Consequently, the British government while owning



HARRY S. TRUMAN leads a nation which believes in democracy and capitalism.

ment ownership or back in the pre-communist days, have never come close to achieving the American standard of living. Nevertheless, the Communist members and leaders hold doggedly to their system, convinced that it offers the best hope for the future. They insist that government officials will work much more for the public welfare than will private business and industrial leaders who are primarily interested in profits for themselves.

Most Americans are equally convinced that capitalism or free enterprise has been and will continue to be by far the best economic system ever to exist. They argue their case in this way:

"Under private industry, people know that the harder they work and think, the larger their financial rewards will be. Competition and the profit system stimulate business and inventive initiative, whereas government ownership stifles individual enterprise. American economic progress has never been approached by a system of government ownership."

Before the war, Russia was the only communist country. Private ownership of industry was the prevailing system among the European nations, though there has been public ownership of certain industries in a number of countries for many years.

Since the war, the trend has been toward increasing government ownership and control. Russia dominates

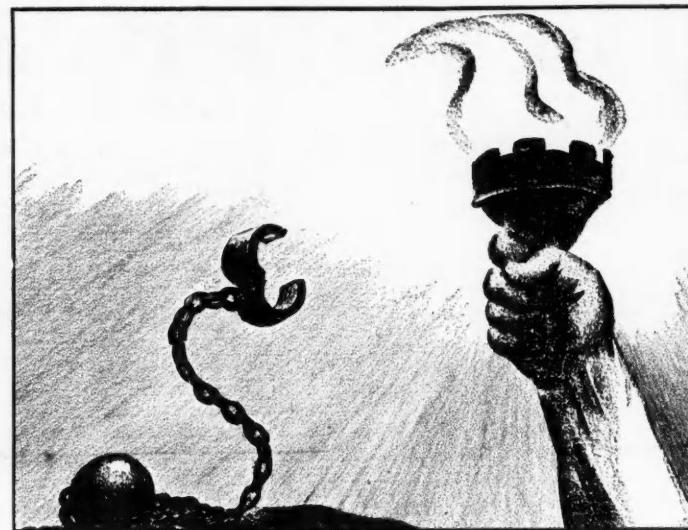


CLEMENT ATTLEE leads a nation which has political democracy but practices part capitalism and part socialism in its economic life.

a number of the country's large industries, remains democratic. The people choose their officials in fair elections in which all parties may participate.

This is the big difference between partly socialist countries, such as Britain, Sweden, France, and Italy, and communist nations such as Russia. The Communists claim that they are promoting democracy, but the record speaks to the contrary. Here are some of the freedoms which Americans and other democratic peoples possess and which Communists, wherever they are in control, have stamped out:

Elections. In the United States the people are supreme, and their right to choose their leaders is guaranteed.



LIBERTY must be constantly on guard

Voting is by secret ballot. Candidates of all parties are free to seek the support of the people.

A winning candidate is installed in office for the term to which he is elected. At the end of that term he must seek re-election to remain in office. A losing candidate is free to criticize the actions of the winner.

In Russia and other countries under the sway of communism, the government is all-powerful. Control is in the hands of a small group of leaders. In elections only one slate of candidates appears on the ballot—the men already in office. Voters are compelled to go to the polls so that there will be a big turnout in favor of the group in power.

Under these conditions, the Communist Party is the only political group permitted to exist. As quickly as it gets into power in a country, one of its first acts is to begin stamping out rival parties. People who do not yield and cooperate are arrested, imprisoned, beaten and often killed.

Speech and Press. In the United States we are guaranteed the right to speak, write, and publish what we please. We may either criticize or praise those who are in office, and support or oppose their plans.

Where communism prevails, everything that is said or written must be in praise and support of the group in power. Criticism is permitted only against those who are not working hard enough to carry out the programs of the communist government.

Assembly. In America we may get together, in large groups or small, to make political plans, to hear speeches, and to show that we either support or oppose men who are in office.



JOSEF STALIN leads a nation which has a political dictatorship and an economic system of total government ownership.

In communist lands people may not hold meetings to suit themselves. If they assemble, it must be to demonstrate support of the government and to learn what it wants them to do.

Court Trials. Our democracy guarantees a fair trial to a person accused of crime. He cannot be punished for a serious crime until he has been convicted by a jury. He is considered innocent until proved guilty.

Communism imitates some of these methods, but does not carry them out in spirit. Although the accused person may be taken before a court, he is treated in just the way the government wants him to be.

Search and Seizure. American police may not ruthlessly search a person's home or arbitrarily seize him for arrest. Instead they must obey certain rules designed to protect the individual's rights.

Communist police, on the other hand, may search and arrest as much as they please. The only excuse they need is to be carrying out government orders.

Religion. The American people have the right to worship as they please. The government does not tell them to uphold or to oppose any church group.

The extent to which religion is free in Russia is a disputed point. For some years the Communists closed the churches and destroyed freedom of worship. During recent years their opposition to religion seems to have decreased, and churches are open today. But there are many complaints of interference with the churches.

These are some of the main differences between life in a democracy and life under communism. We in the United States realize, of course, that conditions here are not perfect in every respect. There is still room for progress in living up to our democratic ideals and principles.

The fact remains, however, that the American people are free to correct injustices and to move toward higher goals. Each person can be constantly working for what he believes to be right. How precious this privilege is cannot be entirely appreciated unless one has lived or traveled in a dictator-controlled land.

The vast majority of Americans fully appreciate the great advantages of democracy and are determined to retain them. We can influence other countries by constantly telling them about our way of life, by keeping our nation strong and prosperous, and by setting a shining example of fair play and justice.

Your Vocabulary

Italicized words below appeared recently in Harper's. Match each with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Answers are given on page 7, column 4.

1. They *flout* the law. (a) strictly obey (b) repeatedly call attention to (c) seriously discuss (d) insultingly refuse to heed.

2. A *dilatory* (dil'ah-tō're) person (a) is always prompt (b) works slowly but accurately (c) habitually or intentionally causes delay (d) is hasty and careless.

3. An *edifying* (ēd'i-fī'ing) experience (a) involves work on a newspaper (b) is instructive (c) is frightening (d) is unusual.

4. They were *trammeled* (trām'eld) by these regulations. (a) hampered and entangled (b) shielded and protected (c) greatly aided (d) not affected.

5. *Potentous* (pōr-tēn'tūs) events (a) foreshadow evil (b) are eagerly awaited (c) are important (d) have good results.

6. They are the chief *proponents* (prō-pō'nēnts) of the measure. (a) enemies (b) advocates (c) beneficiaries (d) provisions.

7. He tried to *envise* (ēn-viz'ēj) the project. (a) stop or delay (b) promote (c) describe clearly (d) view with the mind's eye.

8. A *pusillanimous* (pū'si-lān'ē-mūs) act is (a) generous (b) strange (c) cowardly (d) bold.

Afterthoughts

Someone has remarked that our Washington anniversary issue, dated March 27, must have been easy to publish—because so much space was taken up by pictures. The fact is, however, that the picture pages furnished their full share of trials and tribulations. It would be hard to estimate how many separate facts had to be tracked down.

Take, for example, the inside height of the Capitol dome. We found that sources of information disagree on how high the ceiling rises above the floor. The figure we finally used—180 feet—was obtained from the Architect of the Capitol, the official who is responsible for care of the building. When we called him, he made a special check of the original drawings.

A number of the picture descriptions required several hours apiece of research and interviewing—and our inquiries sometimes brought meager results. When we questioned a press relations official in one government agency, he said, "I don't have much information about this building. Be sure to let me know if you find any."

Some of our writers were surprised to learn how many activities the Smithsonian Institution carries on. They had not realized that its branches include the Washington zoo, the National Gallery of Art, and other widely scattered establishments.

Concerning the Pentagon, there was a big argument within our own staff. One member refused to believe that no two rooms in the structure are farther than six minutes' walking distance apart. "Whenever I go over there," he wailed, "I can't even find my way out of the place in less than two hours!"



J. EDGAR HOOVER thinks the FBI's effectiveness will be threatened if the agency is required to turn over its secret files to Congress

Fact and Opinion from . . .

Newspapers and Magazines

(The views expressed in this column are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"**The National Security,**" by Walter Lippmann, in his syndicated column, *Today and Tomorrow*

U.S. defense officials are seeking to build a military force strong enough to protect our country and launch devastating blows at the enemy for a three-month period in case we are attacked. By the end of three months, it is hoped, any country which might attack us would be weakened so that it could not defeat us before we mobilized our factories for all-out war.

If, instead of using this plan, we tried to keep a much more powerful war machine in constant readiness, the cost would be very great. Moreover, if Russia knew that we were undertaking to prepare for a prolonged war, she might act immediately to seize large areas in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. As it is now, she knows that we are merely preparing for defense—not offense.

"**Don't Rifle the FBI Files,**" editorial in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover can hardly be called a Communist, and yet he is strongly opposed to throwing open his secret files to inquiring senators. His position and his reasons should carry great weight with the American people, for he has made a lifelong career of keeping the country safe from spies and disloyal persons.

Mr. Hoover's files contain unproved accusations against many individuals, so injustices might occur if they were made public. Moreover, FBI sources of information would be revealed, and many of this agency's informants would no longer supply it with vital information. The FBI should report facts to Congress, but it should not have to reveal information which it wishes to keep secret.

"**Access to Records,**" editorial in the *Dallas Morning News*.

Congress, as the chief representative of the people, must see to it that officials and employees of the government are loyal to the nation. It is understandable why the FBI does not want its confidential files to be examined by all members of Congress, but it

should permit two or three key lawmakers to examine its records. They could then report essential facts to Congress without disclosing information which should not be publicized.

"**Justice Opens Her Doors,**" by Henry F. Pringle, *Nation's Business*, March 1950.

Bar associations in numerous cities have organized Lawyer Reference Services to help people find attorneys when they need legal advice. Often, the bar associations have found, individuals hesitate to consult a lawyer until it is too late. They think the fees will be high, or they are afraid of legal "mumbo-jumbo."

The Lawyer Reference Services help overcome these difficulties. A person who thinks he has a legal problem can go into the offices of the service and talk with a professional lawyer. The fee for this call is \$1. If the person has a real problem, he is referred to a member of the service. There his first call costs \$5. If further work by the lawyer is needed, agreement is made as to the fee.

The public should use this service where it is available. It is preventive law at its best, and promotes justice.

Science News

The "flying saucer" mystery is once more in the limelight. Recently, a nationally known magazine stated that the saucers are a new form of aircraft being developed by the United States Navy. Although the Navy, the Air Force, and the President all deny their existence, speculation about the flying saucers continues.

Science News Letter for March 25 offers six possible explanations for the flying discs. They could be: cosmic ray or weather balloons, the planet Venus, meteors or shooting stars, a new type of rocket aircraft, an hallucination, or actual discs—possibly a secret device being tested by the armed forces.

Whatever the explanation may be, most Americans find the subject of the flying saucers one of unusual interest.

★ ★ ★

High coffee prices may soon be a thing of the past—though probably not this year. Coffee specialists from the United States Department of Agriculture are working in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Costa Rica in an effort to improve coffee production. They are using many of the techniques employed by fruit growers, such as selecting superior trees, cutting out useless ones, and improving cultivation. They believe these scientific methods of increasing production will eventually mean lower costs for U.S. coffee drinkers.

★ ★ ★

The Navy's big laboratory at White Oak, Maryland, has a new 4 million dollar addition. It is a "scientific roughhouse" for testing new weapons, particularly underwater mines and bombs. Machines in the lab can imitate every type of "wear and tear" which new equipment may encounter.

For example, weapons are put through grueling tests to see how shipping—by plane, train, truck, or ship—affects them. Temperature chambers which can become extremely cold, or very hot, show the scientists how climate will affect various devices.

Big machines also test equipment to see how it withstands shock and vibration, or high altitude pressures.

—By HAZEL L. ELDRIDGE.



A NEW RADAR SYSTEM, a model of which is shown here, will enable men in traffic control towers at airports to see the exact location of every plane within a 30-mile radius. Systems are already being constructed for use in Alaska and Hawaii.

The Story of the Week

Unemployment Picture

The U. S. Census Bureau reports that the number of unemployed during March was a half million less than it was in February, when about 4½ million persons were without jobs. According to Bureau officials, the decrease in unemployment was due to a pickup in business and the need for help on many farms.

The number of unemployed in the U. S. has shown a rather steady rise in the last two and a half years, going from 1½ million in October, 1948 to 4½ million two months ago. At the same time, however, the number of people *with* jobs has increased also. Thus while industry has been expanding, it has not been doing so as fast as the labor supply has been increasing.

In the opinion of most experts, the rapid increase in the nation's labor force is due in part to the large numbers of high school and college graduates who have been seeking jobs in the last few years.

Two-Party Cooperation

John Foster Dulles is now taking over his new duties as consultant to the Secretary of State. In this post, which was created especially for him,



AKIKO OKUMURA, a Japanese student, shows the transition from traditional oriental dress to western-style clothing that has been taking place in her home country.



MC NEAL OF BLACK STAR

an official of the Virgin Islands government for the past 31 years. De Castro succeeds William Hastie, who resigned recently to become a judge on the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.

The Virgin Islands constitute one of our smallest territories but they are nevertheless important to us. Located about 40 miles east of Puerto Rico, they guard the approaches to the Panama Canal and to the southeast coast of the United States. During the last war, we built an Army Air Force base on St. Croix and expanded a Marine Air Corps base we had established several years before on St. Thomas. We erected a submarine base in the harbor of Charlotte Amalie, the capital of the Virgin Islands.

The principal source of revenue of the territory is the tourist trade, most of which comes from the United States. Other sources of income are farming, fishing and cattle raising.

Loyalty in Government

For many months we have been hearing a great deal about the "loyalty" of people who work for the federal government. Certain departments of the government have special loyalty boards to check the records of their employees to see whether they are friends or foes of the American way of life. The Civil Service Commission, which supervises government employment in general, has its own loyalty board.

A great deal of the information on which these boards base their decisions is supplied by the FBI. Thus far, only a relatively few people have been dismissed from their government jobs on the grounds of disloyalty. Certain members of Congress believe that not enough persons have been discharged. They accuse the loyalty boards of being lax in tracking down dangerous officials.

Senator Joseph McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, has recently led the attack along this line. He has charged a number of State Department officials with being communistic or sympathetic to the Communists.

A Senate subcommittee, of which McCarthy is a member, has been investigating his accusations. At the time of this writing, most of the members of this committee are reported to feel that Senator McCarthy has not yet supported his charges with sound evidence.



JOHN FOSTER DULLES has taken over new duties in the State Department

Mr. Dulles will advise Secretary Acheson on a wide range of foreign policy questions.

President Truman chose Mr. Dulles, a staunch Republican, to bring about greater cooperation between Republicans and Democrats in the field of foreign affairs. It is a step toward strengthening "bi-partisanship" and preventing international questions from becoming political issues.

This is not the first time that Mr. Dulles has been called upon to help shape our foreign policies. He was a delegate in 1945 to the San Francisco Conference, where plans for the United Nations were drawn up. He also acted as special advisor to three former Secretaries of State at various international conferences and served as a delegate to the United Nations until last fall. The 62-year-old consultant is a prominent lawyer.

First Native Governor

For the first time since we bought them from Denmark in 1917, the Virgin Islands are being administered by a native-born governor. He is Morris de Castro, who has served as

of investigating disloyal government employees than that used in the present case. He would set up an impartial commission of 12 persons to look into charges of disloyalty made by any senator or representative. Half of the members would be lawmakers and half would be private citizens.

Such a commission, Senator Lodge believes, should hold its hearings in secret and make public only the names of persons against whom it had definite evidence of disloyalty. The accused persons would then be allowed to defend themselves at a public trial.

Both Canada and England have Royal Commissions which perform the kind of work that Senator Lodge would have his commission handle.

The Kettles

Moviegoers who liked "Ma and Pa Kettle" will enjoy seeing its sequel, "Ma and Pa Kettle Go To Town." The latter is an entertaining story about the Kettles' adventures in New York, where they somehow get mixed up with a number of gangsters and see the seamy, as well as the bright, side of the "big city." Everything, of course, is straightened out by the end of the picture, but, before it is, the audience is treated to a number of very funny scenes.

Marjorie Main and Percy Kilbride again play Ma and Pa Kettle. Richard Long acts as their son and Meg Randall as their daughter-in-law. Gregg Martell and Charles McGraw play the parts of the gangsters who spoil part of the Kettle family's vacation during their stay in New York.

Philippine "Huks"

The Philippine government recently assigned a large number of troops to the job of combating the Hukbalahaps, a group of insurgents who have been harassing villages and towns on the island of Luzon. The "Huks," as they are called, were first formed to fight against Japanese occupation of the islands. After the Philippines won their independence in 1946, the Huks began a campaign of opposition



WIDE WORLD
LACKING MONEY to finance their activities, groups of young people in Germany have constructed facilities by their own efforts. One group built the community house shown here. Members are now at work in the garden that will give them fun and food during the summer.



JIM MITCHELL FROM BLACK STAR

THE PANAMA CANAL still stands as a vital artery of commerce for our nation. The Miraflores Locks at the Pacific entrance to the canal are shown here.

against the new national government, accusing it of being "conservative and fascist."

For a while, members of this group were believed to be sincere, if misguided, persons who happened to differ with government leaders over economic and political issues. Now, however, as a result of their continued lawless activities, they are considered a menace to the nation's security.

Ever since they were organized in 1946, the Huks have created disorders wherever possible and have even taken to setting fire to communities that refuse to side with the insurgents in their conflict with the government. They number about 20,000 and operate chiefly in the central portion of Luzon. Their leaders are said to be Communists and Communist sympathizers, who will be satisfied with nothing less than the downfall of the national government.

Danger Area

As May approaches, tension is mounting steadily in the city of Berlin. Next month threatens to produce some serious clashes between the Communists of the Soviet sector and the peoples of the three Western zones of the city.

Unless their plans are changed, the Communists will hold a gigantic celebration from May 27 to 30, with some 500,000 members of the Soviet-sponsored Communist German youth group taking part. There are to be sports events, rallies, and parades of uniformed young people.

This, by itself, would cause no alarm, except for the fact that, with so many people together at one time and fired with Communist propaganda, there is the chance that trouble may develop. The worst thing that could happen would be for the crowd to get out of hand and march on Western Berlin in an attempt to take over the city. As a matter of fact, earlier this month the Communists announced that they were actually planning such a march, but they later reported that the plans had been dropped.

Western officials are taking no chances, however. They are making

special preparations to defend their zones while the Communist celebrations are taking place. They also are planning to double their guards on May 1—International Labor Day—when both the Soviet and the Western zones will hold rallies.

In a recent speech the United States High Commissioner in Germany, John J. McCloy, accused the Russians of once again attempting to frighten the Western Allies out of Berlin. But he voiced the determination of the three democracies when he stated forcefully, "We shall stay in Berlin."

The importance to Britain, France, and the United States of standing their ground in Berlin is shown by a statement of a German school teacher who recently fled from the Soviet zone. He said:

"So long as Berlin is not cut off from either West or East, it is bound to counteract any Russian propaganda.

A mere visit to Berlin—and this is still possible for the Germans living in the East—is enough to prove that the Communists are lying. The very existence of a free Berlin gives the people living around it the feeling that they are not quite abandoned or isolated. It is like a breath of fresh air, like a ray of hope for an eventual liberation."

Industrial Disputes

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about three million workers were involved in strikes last year. More than half of the walkouts were caused by disputes over pensions and related issues. The remainder of the strikes were due to disagreements over wage increases, improvements in working conditions, and other questions.

In all, there were 3,606 walkouts during 1949, as compared with 3,419 in 1948. The number of man-days of work lost last year was 50 million. This was 16 million more than the figure for 1948 but much less than the number for 1946. In the latter year, 116 million man-days of work were lost because of industrial disputes throughout the nation.

British Gratitude

A campaign is now under way in Great Britain to raise 5½ million dollars for the construction of a student center that would be used by American and British Commonwealth students attending college in London and the surrounding area.

The purpose of the proposed center is to show the gratitude which the British feel for the gifts of food they have received from the people of the United States and British Commonwealth nations since 1940. According to the leaders who are conducting the fund-raising campaign, 70 million individual food parcels and 130 million pounds of food in bulk have been sent to the British Isles in the last 10 years.

—By DAVID BEILES.

THE LIGHTER SIDE

Junior: "Dad, what is a rare volume?"
Dad: "It's a book you have loaned that is returned to you."

"Yes, sir," panted the new shepherd, "I got all the sheep in, but I had to run some to get the lambs."

"Lambs, you idiot! Those 14 little ones are jack rabbits!"

A few weeks ago a Boston brokerage house advertised for "a young Harvard graduate or the equivalent." Among the answers was one from a Yale man: "When you speak of an equivalent," he wrote, "do you mean two Princeton men or a Yale man half time?"

Optician: "Weak eyes, have you? Well, how many lines can you read on that chart?"

Patient: "What chart?"

"I am pleased beyond words to see such a dense crowd come out to hear my message tonight," said the candidate starting his speech.

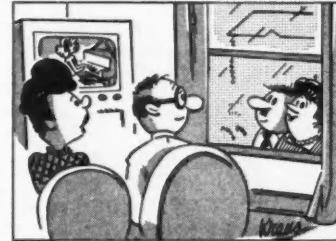
"Don't be too pleased," came a voice from the back of the hall. "We're not all dense."

Passenger (to bus conductor reading paper): "What time does this bus start?"
Conductor (pointing to paper): "At the end of this article."

Use Lumbo soap. Doesn't lather. Doesn't bubble. Doesn't clean. It's just company in the tub.

She: "So you're going into the lumber business?"
He: "Yes, and wish me luck."

She: "Oh, I'm sure you'll be successful; you have such a good head for it."

KRAUS IN SATURDAY EVENING POST
"We really should have the Powers over sometime"

Readers Say—

I do not believe that we should abandon the United Nations and try to establish a world federation instead. The UN has already done outstanding work in several fields and is our best hope for peace. Certain revisions, of course, should be made in the UN charter—for instance, the members of the Security Council should be deprived of the veto power. However, the UN is far more capable of resolving differences between nations than would a federation of conflicting states.

CONNIE LEROY,
Silver Spring, Maryland

I was delighted to read, in the February 20 issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, your interview with Vu Huy Kim, one of the students who recently visited the United States and attended the New York *Herald Tribune* Forum. Kim was one of my pupils at a "lycee" in Hanoi, Viet Nam, where I taught English and French before coming to this country in 1948. Kim was, incidentally, one of the best students I had.

Since arriving in the United States, I have been attending Union College and doing some practice teaching at Nott Terrace High School in Schenectady. I wish that other Vietnamese could come to this country and learn about the people here and their way of life. I am sure the experience would strengthen the affection the Vietnamese already have for the U. S.

NGUYEN DINH HOA,
Schenectady, New York

We strongly condemn the attitude which our government is displaying toward the communist problem. Although we are, at least nominally, a democracy, we are adopting dictatorial measures that are intended to suppress any original thinking on the part of the people. What are the McCarthy accusations and the loyalty oaths if not attempts to do away with free speech and free thought?

It is obvious that if the present undemocratic trend continues, our nation may become a dictatorial state. In trying to control communism, we will have given in to fascism and totalitarianism.

MILDRED ALLEN,
JEAN BENTON,
MICAELA FORREST,
Los Angeles, California

I agree with George Kennan when he says that Russia does not want war. At the same time, I believe that the Soviet government is trying to cause the downfall of democracy by spreading communist propaganda. As a matter of fact, if we do not combat this propaganda by every means possible, we may some day find ourselves surrounded by communist-dominated countries.

BARBARA EVANS,
Meridian, Mississippi

The Greek people are extremely happy that their civil war is ended. With the help of the United States, our army was able to win a decisive victory over the Communists and to establish peace once more.

While the civil war was in progress, the Communists committed many crimes against humanity, believing as they do in violence and having no faith at all in human beings. In addition to killing innocent people, they stole property and burned homes. When they fled into the Communist countries to the north of Greece, they took with them about 30,000 children between the ages of 2 and 15. The Greek people are now appealing to all civilized countries to demand the return of these children to their parents and their homes.

PAUL J. YANNIOS,
Thessaloniki, Greece

(Editor's note: Our thanks to Elma Desplain, of Lovell, Wyoming, for forwarding the above letter to us for publication.)

Correspondence from our readers or foreign students should be addressed to Letter Column, THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)

Television

(Concluded from page 1)

Establishment of stations is being held back by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, which regulates radio and television broadcasting. In the autumn of 1948, this agency ran into some technical problems concerning video, so it stopped granting permits for new stations. By then, 110 permits had already been given out. Nearly all the studios which they covered are now operating.

About 350 additional applicants are waiting for permission to open stations, but their requests will not be granted until the commission has made some important decisions. In the first place, the FCC is studying new ways of keeping stations in neighboring

tient for the government to approve new video stations.

In areas where video stations are operating, people are not letting any uncertainties about future TV developments hold them back from purchasing present-day receivers. Instead they are going right ahead, buying and using the sets that are now on the market.

The existence of a big television audience is already having noticeable effects on American life. It is bringing important changes, just as did the automobile, the airplane, the radio, and other inventions.

For instance, after a family buys a television set, its members generally spend more time at home than they did before. A common saying is, "Automobiles took families out of their homes, and television is bringing them back." This conclusion about

their attendance at sports events by at least a third after buying video sets.

One question now being asked is this: Will television bring ruin to the movie industry as we know it today? Or will the motion picture and the television interests find that there is plenty of room for both in the entertainment field? Although people in the movie business realize that their industry faces a challenge, they have a great deal of confidence that this challenge can be met.

Many of them believe, for instance, that motion picture companies can make large amounts of money by producing films for use exclusively on television broadcasts. They also hope that theater owners can attract customers by presenting television shows along with their film programs.

For the sports world, the big difficulty is that people can now watch

tioned about their use of video. It was found that nearly four fifths of them view television programs regularly. Half of the young people have TV sets in their homes, and most of the others watch programs at the homes of friends.

When the family owns a TV set, the survey shows, students spend almost as much time watching television as they spend in class. A majority of these pupils said that video interferes, occasionally at least, with the completion of their homework. Most of them stated, however, that the new form of entertainment had increased their interest in events outside of school and home.

Many teachers report that television apparently is keeping their students from getting enough sleep, and is thereby hindering their school work. Such problems as this can be solved only by the family itself. Like any other activity, TV-watching can be given too much time. It can take people away from work; it can keep them from getting fresh air and outdoor exercise; it can rob them of sleep. It can do these things, that is, unless there is family planning and will power.

Television, like radio and the movies, has been severely criticized on the ground that it presents too many plays involving horror, violence, and crime. In one large U.S. city, for example, a group of people recently checked the programs telecast by video stations between the hours of 4 and 9 p.m. This is the period in which the audience is largest, with even the smallest children watching.

Murders and Hold-ups

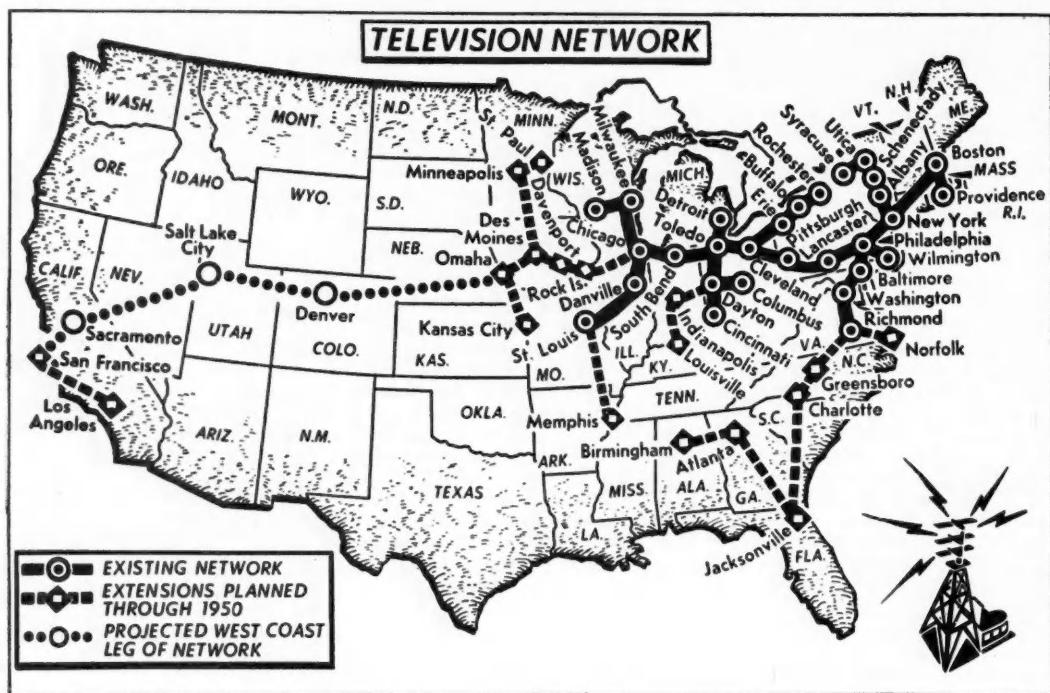
During the evening hours of a single week, television brought pictures of the following into thousands of family living rooms: 91 murders, 7 hold-ups, 3 kidnappings, 10 thefts, 4 burglaries, 2 jailbreaks, and numerous other serious crimes.

Should video stations be blamed for presenting programs of this nature? Many people answer in the affirmative, and declare that broadcasters must clean up their programs. Large numbers of station and network officials agree that the video industry needs to make its presentations more wholesome.

Others reply that the programs now presented are popular with great numbers of people, that individuals who dislike crime shows do not need to watch, and that parents need not permit their children to tune in on such telecasts. This dispute is likely to become more heated, month by month, as more families obtain television sets and the influence of video becomes stronger and stronger.

Anyone who has a TV set, of course, knows that large numbers of excellent plays and other programs are being telecast, and that useful services are being performed. In New York, to take just one example, disabled veterans who need jobs have been given opportunities to demonstrate their skills—at carpentry, mechanical work, and so on—over the air. By this means, many of them have obtained employment.

Television is no longer a gadget or a novelty. It is a well-established part of American life. It is found in the homes of moderate-income families as well as in the homes of the wealthy. Its influence upon the people of the United States, strong already, will grow as the television audience continues to expand.



THE TELEVISION NETWORK picture as it was at the first of this year

cities from interfering with one another's broadcasts. Second, it is trying to decide what to do—for the time being, at least—about color television.

There is little doubt that TV images will eventually be sent in color on commercial broadcasts. However, several rival methods of transmitting and receiving color television have been developed. Some people feel that these different systems should be permitted to compete with one another, while others think the whole nation should have a uniform system. The final decision on this question will be made by the Federal Communications Commission.

To be suitable for commercial use, a color video set-up will need to satisfy three main requirements: (1) it must produce good pictures; (2) it must be easy to operate; and (3) the black-and-white sets that millions of people now own must be able—at least if they are equipped with some special device—to receive the programs which are telecast.

No one can predict whether some form of color television will soon get a go-ahead signal from the FCC, or whether "video in technicolor" will be postponed for several years. Meanwhile, the advertisers, network officials, and would-be broadcasters are im-

TV is not based on mere guesswork. It is the result of studies that have been made in a number of different localities.

In one survey, two thirds of the TV owners who were questioned said that video is encouraging all members of their families to spend more time at home, and is thus bringing the parents and young people closer together. A study made in Washington, D. C., showed that members of TV-owning families are spending nearly half again as much time at home as they did before video came along.

The home-strengthening effect of television may eventually wear off. After the novelty is gone, video may become just another form of entertainment, used only occasionally. But so far there is little or no sign that such will be the case. For the average family, watching television seems to be a permanent habit.

There is, meanwhile, a great deal of concern about television's effect on the movie industry, spectator sports, and other forms of entertainment outside the home. A recent survey in one city shows that adults attend only about a fourth as many movies after getting television as they did before, and that young people see about half as many. Furthermore, according to this same study, individuals cut down

games more comfortably from their own living rooms than they can watch the same events from the stands or bleachers. Will colleges and sports promoters therefore close the gates to television, so that fans will have to come and see their attractions on the spot? Already restrictions are being placed on video at some sports events, but it is too early to predict what will happen in the long run.

TV has publishing companies worried, because it even affects reading habits. Not much change in the use of newspapers can be noticed, but people with video receivers are reading fewer books than before; and they are spending less time with magazines.

Some observers are alarmed by this trend, fearing that families with TV sets will fail to keep themselves well informed. Others argue that television itself will supply enough useful information to take the place of the knowledge lost through lack of reading, and that its information will reach many more people than books do now. Video's influence, in this respect, will depend greatly on the kinds of programs that are telecast in the years ahead.

Young people are among the most ardent television fans. In a Connecticut town, boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 15 were recently ques-

Student Projects**Institutes and Radio**

CLAY COUNTY Community High School has held an International Institute each year for the past three years. During the two-day session, the high school has as its guests foreign students who are enrolled in colleges and in other high schools in Kansas, China, Germany, Paraguay, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Poland were represented at the most recent institute, held in January of this year.

The program includes a colorful pageant based on the United Nations and its work, and there are talks by the student guests. Open discussion usually follows the talks.

Bill Woellhof, who reported on the project, agrees with a guest who said, "International institutes like this held, not only in the high schools of the United States, but in high schools all over the world, would do much to make the world be at peace."

Edith E. McConnell and Otto Unruh, instructors in social science, direct the institute.

★ ★ ★

ARADIO station, with a 10-watt FM broadcasting transmitter, has been given to the schools of Huntington, Indiana, by the Class of 1950 of the Huntington High School. Known by the call-letters WVSH, it serves the city as well as the schools since Huntington has no commercial radio outlet.

Programs for the schools are broadcast one hour each school day. Grade and high school students take part in some of the programs. Others are based on transcribed material especially arranged for classroom use. Recently when the sectional basketball tournament was held in Huntington, the station broadcast the games.

The studio and control room are located in what was formerly a dressing room at the side of the stage in the high school auditorium. Thus programs can be directed from the stage itself.

The equipment was installed during the Christmas vacation and the dedication broadcast was held on January 19, 1950. The station is part of the Huntington Audio-Visual Center. Under the direction of M. McCabe Day, the center has arranged for each school in the Huntington system to have a motion picture projector, a filmstrip projector, and a slide projector. Six have centralized sound systems.

★ ★ ★

CONTRIBUTING to the local blood bank has been one of the outstanding projects undertaken by the junior social studies class of the Senior High School in Springfield, Missouri. Before the trip to the bank was made, Miss Sarah Townsend, the teacher, explained the purpose and operation of the blood bank.

When they arrived to make their donations, the students had a round-table discussion with the chief technician where they learned the parts of the blood and their functions. Later they watched tests to determine different factors in the blood. Then the 10 students who made up the group made their contribution to the bank.

Anita Bussard, who reported on the project, feels that the students gained an understanding of the bank and its purpose from the trip.



ACME
DOUBLE-DECKER TROLLEYS are in use in Alexandria, Egypt. The little car behind is for people who don't like the "height" of the top deck.

Egyptian Views on U. S.**Students Admire Our Democracy and Freedom as They Think of the Struggle Egypt Had to Win Independence**

THE United States is the most democratic country in the world. There is freedom here. The living standard is high. There are so many machines that life is made quite easy. One just pushes a button and many tiresome jobs are done automatically."

These are not the words of a proud American. They express, instead, the opinion of an 18-year-old Egyptian high school student, Berlanta Moursi. Berlanta spent some time in our country this year, and she told us about how she liked it in an interview.

"I was struck by the independence of everyone," Berlanta said, "and by the freedom parents allow girls of my age. And I am very pleased with the American family life; each member of the family helps in doing the house-work."

In praising our democracy and freedom, Berlanta was thinking of the difficulties Egypt has had in winning independence from Great Britain. The British, who for many years controlled Egypt, recognized the country's independence in 1922. However, they retained the right to keep troops in Egypt to guard the Suez Canal Zone. (The canal connects the Mediterranean and the Red Sea and is an important link in the sea route from Britain to the Far East.)

"Although they remain as guards along the 100-mile route of the canal," Berlanta said, "British troops have now withdrawn from our cities. So we have got rid of any symbol that might suggest we still are a protectorate. We have won independence in handling our trade with other countries, too."

Berlanta is a keen student of art and she enjoyed a tour of our National Gallery of Art, with its many beautiful paintings, during a visit to Washington.

Hamed Mansour, 19, also was a visitor. A champion discus thrower and wrestler in Egyptian high schools, Hamed was greatly interested in our sports, especially football. "I usually play the English type at home," he said. "But I can play American football as well."

"Among countries of the East, the percentage of young people going to school in Egypt is high," Hamed told us. "About 60 per cent of those be-

tween the ages of 6 and 18 are in classes. Our schools do a great deal to teach an understanding of our political situation in the world. In fact, I think world politics is taught more thoroughly than in the United States. We have enough teachers, but our schools are handicapped a bit by lack of modern equipment."

Egypt, at the northeast corner of Africa, is about one and a half times the size of Texas. Population is about 20 million for the whole country, and over two million for Cairo, the capital city.

Most of the people live by farming, along the fertile valley of the Nile River. Cotton is the big crop for export, but corn, rice, sugar cane, wheat, and other crops also are grown.

One of the world's most ancient countries, Egypt came under Turkish rule about 1517. The British occupied the country in 1882 and, in 1914, formally made it a British protectorate—until the granting of independence.

The government of Egypt is under a king, with a prime minister and a two-house legislature. Farouk I, 30 years old, is Egypt's monarch. He became King in 1936, at the age of 16.



TRANS WORLD AIRLINE
HAMED MANSOUR and Berlanta Moursi of Egypt

Study Guide**Television**

1. About how many television receiving sets are now in operation in the United States?

2. Why is there a lag in the opening of new TV broadcasting stations?

3. On what major problems is the television industry awaiting decisions by the U. S. Federal Communications Commission?

4. According to surveys made in Washington, D. C., and other cities, what effect is television having upon the habits of families?

5. Describe the problem that video creates for the movie industry and for sports promoters. In what ways may the challenge be met?

6. How does television appear to be affecting the reading of newspapers, books, and magazines?

7. On what ground has the type of programs presented on TV been criticized? How do station and network officials answer the criticisms?

Discussion

1. How, in your opinion, should members of a family go about working out a system to make certain that the watching of television will not take up too much of their time?

2. Do you think that other forms of entertainment will, in the long run, be severely weakened by the development of video? Explain your position.

Clash of Ideas

1. Compare the different systems of industry favored by the United States and Russia.

2. What is the big difference between partly socialist countries—such as Britain, Sweden, France, and Italy—and Communist Russia?

3. How do elections in a democratic land compare with those in a communist country?

4. Contrast democracy and communism with respect to court trials, assembly, speech and press, and religion.

5. As Americans, how can we influence other countries to appreciate the great advantages of democracy?

Discussion

On the basis of your present information, do you think the present conflict of ideas must result in a world war, or do you believe that countries following the different systems can find a way of getting along together? Give reasons.

Miscellaneous

1. What is one of the reasons for the rapid increase in the nation's labor force in the last few years?

2. Describe the proposal that has been made by Senator Lodge for dealing with charges of disloyalty in the government. What do you think of the plan?

3. What were some of the causes of strikes in 1949?

4. What is the importance of John Foster Dulles' recent appointment as a special advisor to Secretary of State Dean Acheson?

5. Why is the period between May 27 and May 30 considered an important one for the future of Berlin?

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Answers to Your Vocabulary

1. (d) insultingly refuse to heed; 2. (c) habitually or intentionally causes delay; 3. (b) is instructive; 4. (a) hampered and entangled; 5. (a) foreshadow evil; 6. (b) advocates; 7. (d) view with the mind's eye; 8. (e) cowardly.

Careers for Tomorrow - - In the Field of Chemistry

ONE writer has said that modern industry's problems are increasingly chemical in nature. When a new metal is wanted, industry turns to the chemist. When a new varnish is needed, the chemist must develop it. Perfumes, vitamins, cereals, plastics, motor fuels, textiles, steel plates, explosives—the list is endless, and all depend upon the work of the chemist.

In vocational terms, these facts mean that young men and women who like chemistry and are willing to secure a master's or a doctor's degree in the subject can look forward to almost assured employment. Their incomes will be better-than-average, and in a few instances their salaries may be quite high.

The general field of chemistry can be divided into two main branches—pure research and applied chemistry. The first includes study directed toward expanding man's knowledge of basic chemical principles. Applied chemistry is concerned chiefly with adapting those principles to everyday use—with creating new commercial products.

Chemists who concentrate on pure research are usually employed by scientific foundations or by colleges and universities. Sometimes they work for the federal government or for private industrial firms. Applied scientists are, on the other hand, most often employed by industrial firms.

Chemists in the industrial field may do one of several general kinds of work. They may be control chemists and make routine tests to see that

products are kept at a fixed standard of quality. Or they may do the work and carry out experiments necessary to improve and develop new industrial products.

Another division of the industrial field includes the work of the chemical engineer. This person bridges the gap between science and industry by arranging for the large-scale manufacture of the products the research scientist has developed.

To succeed in any phase of chemical work, young men and women should have a genuine love for chemistry and they should have orderly minds. They must also be patient and painstaking, for their work will require them to carry out long, difficult experiments. Chemical engineers must be able to visualize and direct large projects. They must also be able to direct the work of large groups of people.

Advancement and income vary primarily according to the amount of training a chemist has. Persons who have had only high school chemistry, and those who have had only a course or two in college, will not go beyond the lowest levels.

A person with an A.B. degree (obtained after four years of college) can get a position requiring some exercise of independent judgment, but a doctor's degree (a Ph.D. or one of the scientific degrees) is essential to persons who really want to advance. A chemical engineer must usually have a special degree in engineering.

Earnings, as stated above, depend upon one's educational background,



GEORGE A. SMITH
CAREERS in chemistry for young men



... and young women

ACME

but they also vary according to the branch of chemistry a person enters. Teachers make from \$1,800 to \$2,400 a year in their first positions. After 10 years' experience, they may earn from \$3,000 to \$4,500 a year, though college and university professors earn more.

Beginning salaries in industry vary from \$2,400 a year for persons with A.B.s to \$4,800 for those with Ph.D.s. The salaries of administrative officers with long experience in the chemical field may go as high as \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. The average for experienced industrial chemists with advanced degrees is about \$6,000 a year. Some salaries are much higher than these amounts.

In high school, prospective chem-

ists should take college preparatory courses. In college, they will major in chemistry. In going on-to graduate school, they will do a good deal of original research and will concentrate on one of the major branches of the field—electrochemistry, biochemistry, physical chemistry, or one of many others.

A list of schools approved for the work they give in chemistry can be secured from the American Chemical Society, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. The society also publishes a vocational guidance pamphlet which will be sent to students. The pamphlet will not be ready for distribution until June 1 or shortly thereafter, but requests may be sent now.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

Historical Backgrounds - - - Television's Sixty-five Years

MOST of us think of television as something quite new. Actually, the first theory of TV was being developed about 65 years ago—at about the same time that the first theories of wireless telegraphy and radio were being thought out. It just took a longer time to make television workable than it did to develop wireless and radio.

The groundwork for wireless telegraphy was laid in 1887 by a German scientist, Heinrich Hertz. He showed that electrical waves could be sent through space. In 1892, five years later, Sir William Crookes, an English-

man, theorized that messages could be sent through the air by use of the electrical waves. The Italian inventor, Marconi, went to work on this theory and got wireless telegraphy on a practical basis by 1896.

Marconi sent his first trans-oceanic message across the Atlantic in 1901. The first of the three great "aerial" transmission industries developed rapidly from then on.

After wireless, radio was but a step away. Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian-born American, succeeded in transmitting spoken words by wireless for the distance of a mile late

in 1900. Carrying on his experiments with a colleague, Ernst Alexanderson, Fessenden worked out an early type of detector tube and a transmitter. Fessenden made the first real radio broadcast, with a program of music and speech, on Christmas Eve, 1906, from a small, experimental station at Brant Rock, Massachusetts.

Radio listening, for a long time, was largely by amateurs who built their own sets. Crystal detectors, developed in 1906, generally were used. A piece of wire on the early radio receivers was jiggled over a piece of crystal (galena). This crude detector brought in the broadcast sounds.

In 1906 Iowa-born Lee De Forest perfected the audion detector tube. This device became the foundation stone for the development of radio reception as we know it today.

Big time radio, with regular broadcasts, did not get under way until the 1920's. Such programs were sponsored by radio manufacturers who hoped that regular broadcasting would make people want to buy receiving sets. Sale of the sets would provide the radio producers with a profit and pay the cost of providing programs—or so it was thought.

But, as the costs of radio operation grew, the sale of advertising time on the air was begun in 1922. There was, at first, considerable opposition to this idea. Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, felt that radio should remain as a public service and that advertising should not be allowed to mar its value as an educa-

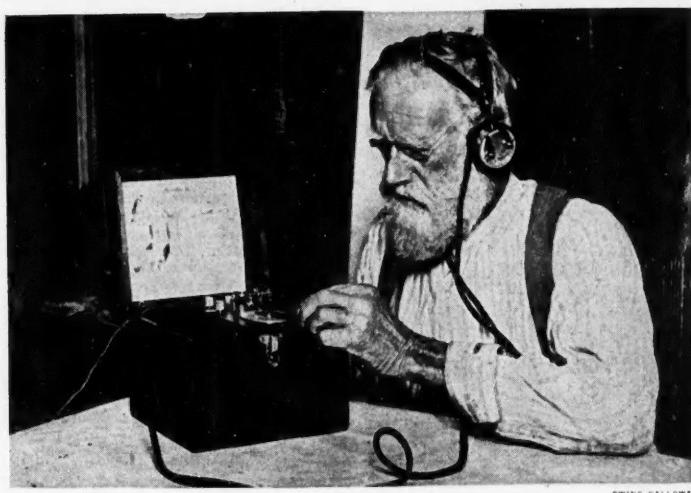
tional and entertainment medium. The idea of selling advertising time on the air won out, however, and the proceeds made possible the present nationwide chains.

Television, last of the "aerial" entertainers to get going, had its theoretical start three years before German Scientist Hertz demonstrated the use of electrical waves, as the forerunner to wireless. Paul Nipkow, also a German, got a patent in 1884 for an "electrical telescope." By a combination of revolving disks, reflected light, and a light-sensitive cell, Nipkow had worked out a device that could provide a very rough image of a subject. Thus the idea of TV was born.

Further advances were made by use of the amplifier tube that had been developed for radio. It then became possible to use electrical currents for the transmission of an image over a distance, eventually over a number of miles. Inventors in England and the United States demonstrated this in 1925.

The next step was to get rid of disks and moving parts in the TV system. A Russian immigrant, Vladimir Zworykin, managed this in 1933—by the invention of the iconoscope, for transmitting the picture, and the kinescope tube, for receiving the picture.

Television was demonstrated at the New York World's Fair in 1939, and regular TV broadcasting was started in that year. World War II held up expansion. But, at the end of the war, television began its present forward march. —By THOMAS F. HAWKINS.



IN RADIO'S EARLY DAYS people listened with headphones. Radio and television have come a long way since then.

EWING GALLOWAY